CUR SOCIAL SCIENCES DIVISION

e-Newsletter

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Jennifer Edwards & Ethan Ankrum Media Engagement Plan

SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE
We are currently seeking short stories and student highlights (undergraduate research and undergraduate research mentor spotlights) to feature on our CUR Social Sciences Division website. **If you have any moments, highlights, news, and more, from your college/university, we are looking forward to them!** Please send these moments and stories Ethan R. Ankrum, ankrum@uw.edu, please attempt to include a link to the item and an image if possible.

OUTREACH
Jennifer Edwards and Ethan R. Ankrum have finalized our themes for proposed webinars/workshops to be hosted by the Social Science Division. The monthly webinar/workshop themes are below. **We are currently seeking potential presenters for these webinar/workshops.** The format and description are tentative but are the goals of these months' presentations. Those interested in presenting or representing our division should message Jennifer Edwards, jtedwards@tarleton.edu.

March: The Benefits of Undergraduate Research to Social Sciences Mentors (Webinar)

- **Format:** Webinar
- **Presenters**: One to two people.
- **Description:** This webinar will delve into the numerous benefits to social science mentors who participate in the undergraduate research experience. We will discuss how undergraduate research can positively impact a mentor's career advancement opportunities, contributions to the next generation of researchers, and impact on student learning experience. Mentors will share their perspectives on the value of mentoring undergraduate researchers.

April: How to Help Undergraduate Researchers Create Their Personal Development Action Plan (Workshop)

- **Format:** Workshop
- **Presenters**: One to two people.

- **Description:** This interactive workshop will guide participants through the process of setting meaningful and achievable research goals. We will explore strategies for identifying research interests, developing focused research questions, and creating realistic timelines. Participants will leave with a personal development action plan for their own research projects.

May: AI in Bloom: AI-Powered Research Methodologies (Webinar)

- **Format:** Webinar
- **Presenters**: One to two people.
- **Description:** In celebration of spring, this webinar will explore the innovative ways in which Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming social sciences research. We will discuss AI-powered research methods (i.e. - text analysis, social network analysis, and machine learning), and their applications in various fields within social sciences.

The Social Sciences Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research provides networking opportunities, activities, and resources to assist administrators, faculty members, students, practitioners, mentors, and others in advancing undergraduate research.

Research Spotlight

Jeanetta Sims, Doreen Sams, and Anne Price have submitted a proposal for ConnectUR, "CUR's Next Frontier: Strengthening Online Learning through Course-Based Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Inquiry."

Brief Description: Online or hybrid courses are a growing trend in higher education in the USA. Given the proliferation of online and hybrid course offerings, online students are uniquely positioned to address the world's challenges through mentored undergraduate research, a high-impact practice. Yet, URSCI-interested faculty must integrate mentored undergraduate research as a tool to enhance online learning environments and to prepare students for 21st-century career readiness. This presentation assists faculty who teach online to better integrate and assess course-based online undergraduate research experiences (COURE), where mentored undergraduate research is a tool to enhance learning in online environments. The presentation addresses equity across online and in-person modalities, discusses online quality amid the growing prevalence of AI, and discusses policies for institutions and faculty.

Upcoming Opportunities and Deadlines

NCUR 2025 will take place April 7-9, 2025, in Pittsburgh in partnership with Duquesne University and the Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education.

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